

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 354 228 409 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: July 18, 2003

Signature:

(Anthony A. Laurentano)

Docket No.: TOW-031  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Hiroshi Akita, *et al.*

Application No.: NEW APPLICATION

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: PROTON CONDUCTIVE SOLID POLYMER  
ELECTROLYTE AND METHOD FOR  
PRODUCING THE SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO 1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

A copy of each reference on PTO 1449 is attached.

A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an

admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. TOW-031. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: July 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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APPLICANT FACSIMILE OF FORM PTO-1449 REV 7-80	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>TOW-031</b>	SERIAL NO. To Be Assigned
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT <b>Hiroshi AKITA et al.</b>	
		FILING DATE Herewith	GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	5,525,436	06/96	Savinell et al.	429	30	
	A2	6,124,060	09/00	Akita et al.	429	307	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	A3	2000-38472	02/00	Japan			ABS	
	A4	2001-160407A	06/01	Japan			ABS	

## OTHERS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

A5	"Synthesis and characterization of novel acid-base polymer blends for application in membrane fuel cells"; Solid State Ionics (1999), vol. 125, pop. 243-249
Examiner	Date Considered
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	